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# Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees classified by full-time/part-time workers, employment characteristics, fixed-term/independent contracts

Reference period August 2020

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Released 11/12/2020

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## Key statistics

- Median employee earnings have increased \$50 (4.5%) to \$1,150 per week since Aug 2019.
- 2.3 million casual employees (22% of employees), down from 2.6 million (24%) in Feb 2020.
- 1.0 million independent contractors (8.2% of employment).
- 14.3% of employees (1 million) were trade union members, down from 40% in 1992.

From August 2020, statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are now published in three topic-based releases. See:

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](#)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-](#)

[arrangements/latest-release\)](#)

- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](#)

Characteristics of Employment data for 2014 to 2020 will be available in [TableBuilder](#) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6333.0.00.001Main+Features1August%202019>) from 16 December 2020.

TableBuilder enables the creation of customised tables and graphs.

## Data downloads

These Characteristics of Employment spreadsheets are also available in the Data downloads section of the relevant [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#), [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) and [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) releases.

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Table 1a - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and full-time or part-time, 2004–2020

[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b\_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)  
[356.5 KB]

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Table 1b - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and status of employment, 2004–2020

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[352.5 KB]

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Table 1c - Median earnings for employees by state, full-time or part-time and status of employment, 2004–2020

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[308 KB]

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Table 1d - Median earnings by full-time or part-time, state and trade union members in main job, 2004–2020

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[266.5 KB]

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics and full-time or part-time

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[205 KB]

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Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

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Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

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[172.5 KB]

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Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[218.5 KB]

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Table 7 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[255.5 KB]

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Table 8 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[279 KB]

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Table 9 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[225.5 KB]

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Table 10 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[228 KB]

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Table 11 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[158.5 KB]

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Table 12 - Median earnings for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[186.5 KB]

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Table 13 - Median earnings for employees by status of labour hire and demographic characteristics

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[255 KB]

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#### Table 14 - Median earnings for employees by trade union membership

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[222 KB]

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#### All 2020 data cubes

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95\_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)  
[1019.04 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics and full-time or part-time

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[313.57 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2\_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)  
[462.9 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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[278.88 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

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[251.72 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[298.66 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 7 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements

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[248 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 8 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

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[326.8 KB]

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#### Historical data: Table 9 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

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[270.96 KB]

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Historical data: Table 10 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[330.19 KB]

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Historical data: Table 11 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation

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[97.66 KB]

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Historical data: Table 12 - Median earnings for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership

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[114.72 KB]

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Historical data: Table 13 - Median earnings for employees by status of labour hire and demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(6bb0e4f14c4133b37d2887cb37e67ddd\_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)

[160.13 KB]

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## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0\*.

Prior to 2014, statistics related to employee earnings, trade union membership and working arrangements were published in:

- [Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0) (catalogue number 6310.0)
- [Forms of Employment, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0) (catalogue number 6359.0)
- [Working Time Arrangements, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0) (catalogue number 6342.0)
- [Locations of Work, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0) (catalogue number 6275.0) (includes data on working from home)
- [Employment Benefits, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0) (catalogue number 6334.0)
- [Trade Union Members, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0) (catalogue number 6325.0)

\*Note: Catalogue number 6333.0 was previously used for [Working Conditions, Australia \(Preliminary\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-Preliminary\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-Preliminary)

[May%201979?OpenDocument](#)), Feb to May 1979.

## Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2020](#)